

of service better than Gary Bermeosolo. Over the past decade, I have had the opportunity to work with Gary on many occasions. He has been a pleasure to work with. I have always been impressed by Gary's ability to innovate and find solutions for our Nevada veterans.

Even in retirement, I am confident that Gary will continue to be a tireless advocate for those who have worn the uniform. On behalf of all Nevadans and all Americans, I am proud to thank Gary for his service to this Nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. DEARMON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a respectable and courageous Kentucky veteran, Mr. John W. Dearmon of Somerset, KY. John served his country for 28 years, from 1943 to 1971, as one of our country's very first Navy SEALs.

John moved to Burnside, KY with his family when he was a boy in 1936. During World War II John was chosen to be part of a class of 141 that produced the first 27 Navy SEALs from underwater demolition teams. During the war, John was in command of a 45-foot intercoastal patrol boat that navigated the harbor and coast of Guam in the Western Pacific.

SEAL training for John consisted of 16 weeks of basic training, with 6 weeks of underwater swimming school. In addition, John recalls parachuting from 30,000 feet during jump school—his team was capable of jumping from up to 43,000 feet but he never had to jump from that altitude.

John is very proud of his service to his country and claims the Navy made him tough. Being a Navy SEAL instilled in John the courage to feel like he can accomplish anything, a trait he takes great pride in. John's formal education ended after he finished the 8th grade, however, he believes he received a real education about how to succeed in life from the Navy.

John W. Dearmon is a true American hero and patriot who is an inspiration to the great people of Kentucky. In fact, when asked if he ever thought about quitting during his arduous assignment, he responded, "No! Absolutely not! I'm an old Kentucky farm boy. I'm gung-ho. I never thought about quitting."

John devoted his life to protecting the liberty and freedom our great country was founded upon, and I commend him for his bravery and honor. The Pulaski County Commonwealth Journal recently published an article to honor John's life and accomplishments. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Pulaski County Commonwealth Journal, Aug. 13, 2011]

LIFE OF A SEAL: JOHN DEARMON WAS ONE OF ORIGINAL 27 ELITE FORCES (By Bill Mardis)

"It felt great! I would love to have been with them . . . I started and they finished it for me!"

A Pulaski County man can feel heartbeats of the U.S. Navy SEALs as they moved in and killed terrorist mastermind Osama Bin Laden in a firefight. John W. Dearmon knows their thoughts, their toughness and resolve. He was one of the original SEALs. In his mind, he will always be a SEAL.

Dearmon was in a class of 141 during early World War II that produced the first 27 SEALs. "In my class, we ended up with 27 SEALs, originating from underwater demolition teams. The class was too tough for 114. They didn't make it. They dropped out."

"I didn't join, I was picked. They picked the best men . . . I was one of them. I was proud to be a part," Dearmon said.

Dearmon cringed in sorrow a few days ago when a helicopter crashed in eastern Afghanistan and killed 22 Navy SEALs who were being flown in to assist an Army Rangers unit pinned down by enemy fire. The United States Navy's Sea, Air and Land Teams, commonly known as Navy SEALs, are the U.S. Navy's principal operation force and a part of the Naval Warfare Command.

SEALs are tough hombres. Few there are who can qualify.

"It just doesn't get any tougher. It's really tough. You don't make it if you don't have endurance," said Dearmon. "Basic underwater demolition training . . . that's the hard part, getting through that." "Basic training lasts 16 weeks, and there are six weeks in underwater swimming school."

"Did you ever think about quitting?"

"No! Absolutely not! I'm an old Kentucky farm boy. I'm gung ho. I never thought about quitting."

"Were you ever scared?"

"Well, I really don't know how to answer that. I was anxious a few times."

Dearmon was in command of a 45-foot intercoastal patrol boat, patrolling the harbor and intercoastal areas around Guam in the western Pacific. The boat carried eight depth charges, anti-submarine warfare weapons intended to destroy or cripple a target submarine by the shock of exploding near it.

"We dropped depth charges," recalled Dearmon. "I never knowingly got results, but more than likely we did (get results)," he mused. Dearmon was quick to point out that he never engaged in hand-to-hand combat as did the SEALs who killed Bin Laden.

Dearmon parachuted from 30,000 feet. "We could jump from up to 43,000 feet, but I never jumped that high." Dearmon pointed out that equipment available to his first unit of SEALs is "like a caveman" to what they have today. "The electronic equipment, it's so advanced."

"You're still tough," a reporter suggested to the young-looking 87-year-old.

"I still think I'm tough . . . at least for a little while," he grinned. Despite his age, Dearmon said he is in relatively good health and " . . . I can take care of myself."

His wife, the former Margaret Louise Bray, died July 21. They were married 57 years. "I was devastated (when she died) but I'm getting so I can get along. I'm able to get around."

He goes out for coffee with a group of friends every Thursday morning. It was a friend, Jim Cundiff, who called the Commonwealth Journal and asked: "Do you know that one of the original Navy SEALs lives in Pulaski County?"

The suggestion led to a meeting with Dearmon and a story appropriate for the

times, when Navy SEALs are again in the news.

Dearmon, a native of Tennessee, moved to Burnside with his family in 1936. He left in 1940, working with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). He joined the Navy in June 1943 and served 28 years, retiring in 1971.

"Would he do it all over again?"

I loved every minute I was in the Navy. I'm proud of my life. I didn't have much (formal) education. I finished the 8th grade . . . but in the Navy I got a real education. I feel like I can do anything. I built this house (at 125 East Summit Drive, Somerset) in 1972. I had never built anything before, but I got a 'How To' manual and went to work."

TRIBUTE TO JENNY BOWLING

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a devoted mother, parent, and fixture of the Colony Elementary School lunchroom staff, Ms. Jenny Bowling of Laurel County, KY. Jenny's love for cooking and sharing great food with people led to a long and fulfilling 38-year career as a cook and lunchroom manager at Colony Elementary.

Jenny began her career as a lunchroom cook in May of 1959 so that she could be close to her three children, who were enrolled at Colony Elementary at the time. She grew close to the teachers and other school staff over the years. She also served as the lunchroom manager. This included cooking as well as running the cafeteria, keeping payroll records and processing the free lunch forms.

In addition, Jenny was an avid volunteer within the school. Jenny was a member of the PTO and rarely missed a meeting. The value and importance of school involvement to Jenny was irreplaceable, a tradition that is still very much alive within her today—Jenny still volunteers every year at Colony Elementary's annual Thanksgiving celebration by assisting in the lunchroom preparation of the traditional turkey and stuffing meals. Jenny passionately served the children and staff of Colony Elementary for almost four decades before she retired in 1997.

Ms. Jenny Bowling's lifetime commitment to serving Colony Elementary with smiles and home-style meals is truly admirable and an inspiration to the citizens of our great Commonwealth. The Laurel County Sentinel Echo published an article highlighting and thanking Jenny for her service to the people of Kentucky. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Laurel County Sentinel Echo, 2011]

HOMESTYLE TRADITIONS: JENNY BOWLING KEEPS CAFETERIA RECIPES ALIVE IN HER KITCHEN AT HOME

(By Magen McCrayer)

In May 1959, Jenny Bowling pulled a hairnet over her soft locks to prepare for 38 years working within school cafeterias.

"At the time we peeled our own potatoes," Bowling recalled.

Today, she observes that lunch is just not made like it used to be with instant boxed potatoes, nutritional charts to follow and new regulations. Bowling reminisced about the days she spent at Colony Elementary School with fellow cooks, Ada Clay and Thelma Lincks, and soon after, Opal Nicholson and Maggie Wilkerson, rolling out dough for yeast rolls, mixing cornmeal and flour for cornbread and putting their own personal touch on recipes.

Working at Colony in western Laurel County was ideal for Bowling, being a short distance away from her home while her three children were enrolled in classrooms just down the hall from the lunchroom.

Over the years, Bowling became close to the school staff and to the teachers especially. Her time was not always spent with her hands in the dough; she kept records of payroll, processed the free lunch forms and ensured that the cafeteria ran smoothly in her position as lunchroom manager.

"People who weren't in the lunchroom had no idea the bookwork involved," she said.

Children at the school who could not afford to pay for their lunch would be hired as help for the cafeteria, Bowling said, to help serve food, and, on occasion, wash dishes in exchange for payment.

Bowling made only \$25 a week to help with the bills, while her husband, Oscar, was out on the road driving a truck to help support the four. Her youngest son at the time, Larry, had not started school yet and so \$10 of her pay was handed to a babysitter.

Being involved with the school was very important to Bowling. As an avid PTO volunteer and member, she rarely missed a meeting. School involvement is still something she continues to value, even now that her children have graduated and have children of their own.

"My oldest, Charlotte, is 60 years old," she noted.

Bowling continues to volunteer at Colony Elementary's annual Thanksgiving celebration. Bowling assists in the lunchroom preparations for the traditional turkey and stuffing feast, although she's still adjusting to the new way of doing things which usually involves using up-to-date machines for mass meal production.

"The equipment is so new and different," she commented.

Instead of children dropping pocket change and crumpled dollar bills for the lunchroom staff to count and pencil in, computers are now used to calculate change and handle payments.

"The last year I was there they started using computers," Bowling said. She retired in 1997.

Even though the old homestyle recipes are no longer prepared at the school's cafeteria, Bowling still keeps the recipes alive in her own kitchen. Every Sunday, Bowling cooks for her family.

"I love to cook if people like to eat."

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CALEB A. NELSON

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true American hero, PO Caleb Nelson of Nebraska, who was tragically killed on October 1, 2011, in Zabul Province, Afghanistan.

Caleb graduated from Navy boot camp 6 years ago to become a machinist's mate. However, he aspired to be the best-of-the-best and, in November 2006, graduated from SEAL qualification training and became a member of

Naval Special Warfare Group Two. Caleb has been described by his commander as a cherished teammate and a gifted SEAL operator. This is certainly illustrated by the numerous awards and decorations he amassed during his short time in the service, including the Bronze Star with Valor, Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Expert Rifle ribbon and Expert Pistol ribbon. Before deploying to Afghanistan this past March, Caleb had deployed to Iraq in 2009.

Not only was Caleb a dedicated combat veteran, he was a loving husband, father, and son. His father, Reverend Larry Nelson, remembers his son as a go-getter and a truly good person. His friends and neighbors tell a similar tale. Karen Wagner, Caleb's neighbor, remembers him as a wonderful kid who was always willing to help out, even if it came down to mundane things such as cleaning out the gutters.

Caleb Nelson's life came to a cruel end when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while his SEAL team was conducting mounted combat reconnaissance patrols. I pray that Caleb's family and friends find strength during this trying time and my condolences go out to them. Caleb's service and sacrifice, his heroism and selflessness will remain an inspiration for all of us.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Taiwan as it prepares to celebrate its National Day on Monday. Double Ten Day, as it is known, marks the anniversary of the uprising on October 10, 1911, that led to the collapse of imperial rule in China. This year's commemoration takes on special meaning as Taiwan celebrates the 100th anniversary of this historic day.

Over the years, we have seen Taiwan make a successful transition to democracy, holding elections and peacefully transferring power. As we look back on the achievements of the past century, we also look forward to a bright future for Taiwan. Taiwan is a valued ally of the United States. The United States has enjoyed a close friendship with Taiwan for many years, and I will continue working to strengthen this relationship.

I wish the people of Taiwan sincere congratulations and best wishes on the 100th anniversary of their National Day.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to draw the attention of my colleagues to the approach of a very special day in the history of our friend and partner, the Republic of China—ROC—on Taiwan. On October 10, 1911—precisely 100 years ago—the Republic of China was founded, and since then has celebrated October 10 as its National Day.

Over the course of this century, the Republic of China has been a firm friend of the United States—from World War II to the Cold War, up to the

present day. More recently, the ROC on Taiwan has emerged as one of the great success stories of the past century—a free market democracy that is a model for the entire region.

I believe that it is especially appropriate to note this anniversary on the Senate floor because of the unique and important role that the U.S. Congress has played in supporting the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, by virtue of the Taiwan Relations Act. Unique among all of our international partnerships, the TRA established in law America's commitment to support the people of Taiwan as they seek a safe and secure place in the world.

I am grateful for the opportunity to wish the people of Taiwan my congratulations on this auspicious anniversary, and hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating a very special National Day.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to continue the discussion that I began Monday with the majority leader, Senator REID, on the need to bring the national defense authorization bill to the floor of the Senate.

Since our colloquy Monday, Senator REID has sent a letter to the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Senator CARL LEVIN, and me. I would like to have a copy of the letter printed in the RECORD.

In the letter, Senator REID lays out his concerns about some of the detainee provisions that were included in the Defense authorization bill as a result of a bipartisan compromise between Chairman LEVIN, myself, and Senator GRAHAM, and cosponsored by a large, bipartisan group of members of the Armed Services Committee. In fact, this compromise was so bipartisan that after extensive debate on many amendments and a number of votes during markup by the committee using the regular order of the Senate, the resulting package of detainee provisions was adopted and made part of the bill by an overwhelming vote of 25 to 1.

Now, I understand that the White House has some objections to these detainee provisions that were adopted by the Armed Services Committee, and Senator REID has essentially endorsed the White House position. In doing so, he is blocking the Defense authorization bill from coming to the floor, using his authority as majority leader to control the business of the Senate.

As I said Monday, I do not think that opposition to this particular provision outweighs the importance of this legislation to our national security mission, our troops, and their families. I stated on the floor Monday that I would work with Senator LEVIN and the administration to try to resolve their concerns about the detainee provisions in the bill. I stand by that commitment. But for the record, I want to address some of the issues raised by the majority leader.